

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00303 311411Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 /009 W
-----058742 311432Z /14
O 302210Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6241
INFO AMCONSUL MERIDA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BELIZE 0303

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SMITH, LECAIN W.)
SUBJECT: W/W: LECAIN W. SMITH

REF: STATE 078461; BELIZE 0298

1. AMCIT KEN KATZ (MERIAH IV CREWMEMBER IDENTIFIED AS "KNIGHT" IN STATE 078461) IS NOW IN BELIZE CITY. ALONG WITH FELLOW CREWMEMBER STEPHANIE CAIN AND JODY CAY. THEY REPORT THAT THEY LEFT LECAIN SMITH, ANN SMITH AND DAUGHTER PANDORA NEAR FELIPE CARRILLO PUERTO, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO, ON MARCH 21. SMITH'S PLANS WERE TO STRIKE OVERLAND THROUGH BUSH IN COMPANY OF LOCAL INDIANS TO BAHIA DE LA ASCENCION, WHERE HE WOULD MAKE THIRD ATTEMPT AT FREEING MERIAH IV FROM REEF (TWO PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS WITH TUG BOAT AND MEXICAN NAVY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL). SMITH WOULD THEN TRAVEL TO BELIZE TO JOIN KATZ, CAIN AND GAY.

2. SMITH AS NOT YET APPEARED IN BELIZE, BUT KATZ BELIEVES THERE IS NO REASON FOR CONCERN. KATZ FEELS SURE SMITH WILL VISIT CONGEN ON ARRIVAL AND/OR RETRIEVE LETTER BEING HELD FOR HIM BY POST OFFICE. KATZ WILL CONTINUE TO AWAIT SMITH'S ARRIVAL. IF SMITH REPORTS ON ARRIVAL HERE THAT HE HAS SALVAGED MERIAH IV OR THAT VESSEL APPEARS SALVAGEABLE, THEN THE WHOLE PARTY
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WILL RETURN TO MEXICO TO PUT VESSEL IN OPERATION. IF VESSEL MUST BE WRITTEN OFF, KATZ BELIEVES SMITH WILL REMAIN IN BELIZE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF LAND HERE, SOMETHING SITH APPARENTLY INTENDED TO DO ANYWAY. IN THAT EVENT KATZ, CAIN AND GAY WOULD TRAVEL TO ROATAN ISLAND, HONDURAS.

3. CONGEN WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND OF
COURSE PASS REQUESTED MESSAGE TO SMITH IF HE APPEARS
IN BELIZE. (FYI: KATZ STATES THAT SMITH IS WELL
AWARE THAT FATHER WISHES HEAR FROM HIM.)

4. KATZ AND GAY HAVE GIVEN PRIVACY ACT AUTHORIZATION,
IN CASE THEIR FAMILIES MAKE INQUIRY. HOWEVER, WE
HAVE NOT SEEN STEPHANIE CAIN, WHO IS VISITING ON
OFFSHORE CAY AT PRESENT; NOR OF COURSE DO WE HAVE
AUTHORIZATION FROM SMITH.

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